

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 IGA-02 SR-02

ORM-03 IO-13 SCA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 151405Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3013

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

USIA WASHDC

USUN NEW YORK 787

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 9854

DEPT PASS AID/W

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, SREF, CB

SUBJECT: MEASURES IN RELIEF OF KOMPONG CHAM

REF: PHNOM PENH 9800(131655Z SEP 73)

1. FOLLOWING ARE MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN OR ARE ASSISTING
GKR AND/OR FANK TO TAKE IN RELIEF OF SUFFERING CAUSED
BY THE KI ASSAULT ON THE CITY OF KOMPONG CHAM.

A. FEW DAYS AGO WE REQUESTED TWO 200-BED PACKAGE
HOSPITALS FROM US, WITH AID FINANCING AND MILITARY
AIRLIFT TRANSPORT. ONE ARRIVES SEPTEMBER 17 AND THE
SECOND SHORTLY THEREAFTER. ONE WILL BE SHIPPED TO
KOMPONG CHAM AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMIT.

THE OTHER WILL BE SET UP IN PHNOM PENH TO TREAT
SOME OF THE HUNDREDS OF WOUNDED WHO

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HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FROM KOMPONG CHAM RIVER CONVOY.

B. GROUP HEADED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WENT BY HELICOPTER TO KOMPONG CHAM TODAY TO MAKE ASSESSMENT OF RELIEF REQUIREMENTS. GROUP INCLUDED CHIEF REFUGEE EXPERT FROM AID/W, OUR MISSION AID REFUGEE SPECIALIST, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC) MISSION IN CAMBODIA (PEREZ) AND VOLAG REPS. GROUP DELIVERED SMALL QUANTITY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND MADE SURVEY OF SITUATION, WHICH WAS CUT SHORT BY SPARE OF INCOMING ARTILLERY ROUNDS. GROUP'S SOJOURN WAS NEVERTHELESS ADEQUATE FOR MAKING DECISIONS TO UNDERTAKE RELIEF MEASURES OUTLINED BELOW.

C. CHIEF OF ICRC MISSION HAS DECIDED THAT THE ICRC MEDICAL TEAM NOW AT SVAY RIENG WILL MOVE TO KOMPONG CHAM.

D. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE AND CARE WILL PROVIDE EMERGENCY FOOD, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR REFUGEES.

E. THROUGH EMBREPS' ONGOING PARTICIPATION IN GKR INTER-AGENCY RICE COMMITTEE, WE WILL (THROUGH CATALYSIS AND MONITORING) ENSURE THAT KOMPONG CHAM IS SUPPLIED WITH ADEQUATE RICE, WHETHER BY RIVER CONVOY OR BY AIRDROP.

F. CONTINGENT UPON CONTINUED EXPANSION OF FANK DEFENSIVE PERIMETER AND ITS ABILITY TO SECURE AND HOLD AN APPROPRIATE DROPZONE, WE INTEND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FANK RESUPPLY EFFORTS WITH USAF C-130 DROPS. WE ARE ALSO SUGGESTING WAYS BY WHICH GKR CIVILIAN AGENCIES CAN MAKE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF KAF AND MNK TO GET MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE CITY.

2. RELIEF EFFORT DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS ONE (A) THROUGH ONE (E) ABOVE WILL, OF COURSE, REQUIRE KAF AND MNK TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

3. WE HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLE TO FANK SPOKESMAN (COLONEL CONFIDENTIAL

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AM RONG) ABOUT HIS EFFORTS DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA THE EVENTS AT KOMPONG CHAM, ESPECIALLY HIS TRIP TO THAT CITY WITH TWENTY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ON SEPTEMBER 13. WE HAVE ON VERY DISCREET BASIS SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF THEMES FOR EXPLOITATION BY GKR MEDIA AND IN GKR PRESS BRIEFINGS AND BACKGROUNDEES. WE HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED TO SEVERAL KHMER IN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS (E.G. MINISTER OF DEFENSE, DIRECTOR

GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND FANK SPOKESMAN) THAT THE
KOMPONG CHAM STORY CAN BE EXPLOITED IN THE WORLD ARENA
TO DESCREDIT GRUNK ON THE EVE OF THE CREDENTIALS BATTLE
AT UNGA. WE HAVE URGED THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE
GIVEN TO(A) ISSUANCE OF A WHITE PAPER, FOR CIRCULATION TO
THE MEDIA AND AT THE UN, AND (B) MAKING A WORLD-WIDE
APPEAL FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

4. WE WILL RESPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND MEASURES
AS THEY TAKE SHAPE.
ENDERS

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NNN

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